



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913
PH (517) 373.1801 | FAX (517) 373.5801
www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/hardiman/

For Immediate Release
December 6, 2006

Contact: Alan Bolter
517-373-1801

Bill to allow certain people to access child abuse records

LANSING – The Senate unanimously passed legislation today that would add certain people or agencies to the list of those eligible to access confidential records from Michigan’s central child abuse registry, said Sen. Bill Hardiman, who chairs the Senate Families and Human Services Committee.

“Child abuse is a horrible crime and we need to allow access to these records in limited circumstances for the purpose of making sure everything possible is done in order to protect children,” said Hardiman, R-Kentwood. “While it’s important to keep these records as confidential as possible, there are times when pertinent information should be accessible in order to put a child’s best interests first.”

Senate Bill 1512 would add the following groups to the list of people able to obtain the records:

- A legally mandated child protective agency or foster care agency prosecuting a disciplinary action against its own employee; and
- A local Friend of the Court office if there is a compelling need for the records to determine custody, parenting time or visitation issues regarding a child.

Additionally, the bill states that any information used for the purpose of investigating an employee shall be done in a way that maintains the greatest degree of confidentiality while allowing review of employee performance.

###